

THE SUN STAR



UAF STUDENT CHRONICLES STRYKER DEPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS JANUARY 31, 2012

MUSEUM GIVES LEGS
TO UNIQUE EXHIBIT ~PG. 8

UAF DONATES FOOD
TO SOUP KITCHEN ~PG. 10

OUT OF THE EURO ZONE,
OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE~PG.11



The Sun Star
Volume XXXI Number 16
December 31, 2012

*The Sun Star's mission as
a campus voice for UAF is
to report the news honestly
and fairly, announce and
chronicle events and provide
a forum for expressions of
opinion.*

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An Afghan man walks beside soldiers from Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment during an air assault in partnership with the Afghan National Army on Dec. 29, 2011, in Molla Dust, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The ANA forces lead the search and clearing for caches of explosive materials and IED parts.



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Corrections: In our Dec. 6, 2011 issue we mistakenly identified DJ Hot-Sexy-Midnight's radio show as "Music to Make Love to Your Woman By," while the correct name is "Music to Make Love to Your Old Lady By."

Police Line Do Not Cross Police Line Do Not Cross Police Line D



Fernanda Chamorro
Sun Star Reporter

This report is based on the information reported by the University Police Department. Individuals arrested and/or charged with crimes in this report are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Break-in

On Jan. 17, someone reported that a PlayStation 3 and accessories had been stolen from a Stevens Hall dorm room over the break. The theft is currently under investigation.

Contact

A UAF student was reported for harassing two female staff members by making unwanted contact with them in the Duckering Building. The individual was banned from Duckering on Jan. 20 and the investigation is ongoing.

Ditching

A 25-year-old driver from Fort Wayne, Ind. drove his vehicle into a ditch by the roundabout near West Tanana Loop. He was arrested and taken to the Fairbanks Correctional Center, where he was charged with DUI on Jan. 22.

Cant-n-did Camera

Video surveillance in Lathrop Hall confirmed a resident assistant's report of a person who had been trespassed from campus entering the building on Jan. 19.

Irresponsible

A community service officer found a 23-year-old driver from Fairbanks unresponsive in the driver's seat of a running vehicle in the Nenana Parking Lot on Jan. 21. An officer arrested and transported him to the Fairbanks Correctional Center for DUI.

One dope toilet

On Jan. 23, a resident assistant reported that a Moore Hall resident possessed drug paraphernalia, which is equipment to make, use, or store drugs. An officer responded, finding a pipe in the toilet and called the 18-year-old male UAF student to court for possession of a marijuana pipe.

Advice for the week:

There were a couple of items reported as missing over the break, so if any items are found, please turn them into Lost and Found. The front desk in the Wood Center is the place to contact if an item is lost or found at 474-7034. Also, make sure to claim items fast if they have been lost because after 70 days, they are returned to the finder and well, finders-keepers in that case.

Police Line Do Not Cross Police Line Do Not Cross Police Line Do N

The Distance Education Gateway will discontinue course search functionality as of February 1, 2012. Students can search and register for eLearning courses at UAOnline.

The Distance Education Gateway will remain online and continue to offer other valuable resources and services to support eLearning.

Please contact your Registrar's office with any questions.

ASUAF Jan. 29 meeting highlights

Lakeidra Chavis
Sun Star Reporter

The following meeting highlights were compiled from the Jan. 29 ASUAF meeting.

Senators in attendance

John Netardus, Will Collingwood, Timothy Gredigan, Jennifer Chambers, Rusty Young, McKinley Zakurdaew, Christian Burns-Shafer, Jesse Cervin, Fred Brown and Robert Kinnard III

Senators absent

Chelsea Holt, Sophia Grzeskowiak-Amezquita, Michael Golub, Andy Chamberlain, Mary Simmons and Jonathon Schurz

Officers in attendance

Rosemary Paz and Josh Banks

Alternative Spring Break proposal

"SB 178-001: Alternative Spring Break 2012" would use a contribution grant of \$1,750 for students participating in the 2012 Alternative Spring Break trip. This year,

the team is going to Destin, Fla. in order to gain a better understanding of coastal ecosystems. The team will work on a shoreline restoration project that will help rebuild fish habitats damaged by the oil spill. The bill was sent to the executive committee.

VITA funding

"SB 178-002: VITA Tax Prep Awareness" would use \$800 to aid the Volunteer Tax Preparation Assistance (VITA) to provide UAF students with free tax services. The Senate passed the bill during the meeting because VITA will begin providing their services on Feb. 4th. The legislation was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

ASUAF's next meeting canceled

In lieu of the upcoming Super Bowl weekend and the Juneau Conference, ASUAF's next meeting Sunday, Feb. 4, was canceled by a vote of 7-1.



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Editorial

All knowledge is worth having



In May 2011, I began a project unlike anything ever done in the UA system. I wanted to create a searchable salary database for University of Alaska employees. It wasn't that no one had ever attempted such a thing before — other states and other universities have similar databases. But no one in Alaska had done it. And I saw a good reason for the project: Personnel accounts for approximately 60 percent of the university's budget. It's important to know how that money is spent.

The database does not exist merely for the sake of existence, as some critics charge. It is a tool for a series this paper is writing about salaries within and outside the UA system. It's also a portal for public information. Yes, public information. Technically, all the information in The Sun Star's Salary Database is accessible to anyone. Though anyone who has ever performed a public records search knows that "public" doesn't necessarily mean "open" or "reachable."

Last semester this paper ran a story that compared UAF faculty pay to that of Lower 48 peer institutions, a story that revealed faculty pay at UAF sometimes pales when compared to Outside universities. We're working on others as well: an analysis of pay across gender lines, a comparison of admin-

istrative costs, how adjunct professors and instructors figure into UAF's faculty budget. We have still more stories in the planning and research stages.

The editorials about The Sun Star's Salary Database project are the most read articles on our website. As I said in when I began this project, journalism should not be a one-way street. I would much rather see a dialogue occur. For readers to participate in any meaningful way, the information must be available.

This project spurred more interaction with readers than anything The Sun Star has done in recent years. Emails, phone calls and comments — both pro and con — came in. That signals one very important point: this topic matters to a lot of people. They are concerned about it and interested in it, and the majority has wanted to see it happen. The database itself has been viewed thousands of times since it went live on Dec. 31.

Amid the criticisms of the project, there has been a variety of critique, much of which contained valid concerns and questions. I responded to each via email or comments on our website.

I wasn't surprised to find a letter to the editor about the project in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, which recently published an article about the database. But the point it made shocked me.

"How congruous of the Fairbanks Daily

News-Miner to publish Jeff Richardson's report on the SunStar journalism students' launch of a publicly searchable database of University of Alaska employee salaries on the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision to allow abortion. What do the two have in common? Just because an action is not illegal does not make it right."

Anita Hartmann, the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, wrote that letter. The conclusion Hartmann drew, simply put, floored me.

Comparing publishing public information to a Supreme Court decision about abortion is absurd. A Supreme Court ruling on the legality of a medical decision and privacy in health care is hardly equitable to the publishing of public information. Ms. Hartmann should be embarrassed to make such a comparison.

I must ask: Why not write to The Sun Star? We accept letters to the editor and guest opinion columns, and I've received neither from Ms. Hartmann. The database is a Sun Star project; we published the information. Why not write to us to share your perspective?

This project is not the immoral and devastating apocalypse some make it out to be. It's access to public information. It's empowering to employees who can see if they are being paid fairly, and informative for those interested in working here. It's a

tool for education, a way to step back and think about how the University of Alaska functions. Yes, this database may cause internal strife in departments. But why isn't honesty the best policy? Should we not believe Chancellor Rogers's mantra of "putting people first." With this project, The Sun Star has given people information they are entitled to, whether they are university employees or not. Those who decry the database's existence would do well to seek positions in the private sector.

Most newspapers publish police blotters with names, also marriage licenses, divorces and legal notices far more scandalous than a person's base salary. Many states, including Alaska, publish employee salary information. There are dozens of databases just like this one for public universities. Most have published the exact same categories The Sun Star did.

The job of The Sun Star is to give our readers the best and fullest grasp of facts. The Sun Star Salary Database is just the beginning of our renewed effort to put information in the hands of the public. We have a lot more planned. Stay tuned.



Heather Bryant
Editor-in-Chief

Nanooks forge through a weekend of ups and downs

Erin McGroarty
Sun Star Reporter

Women's Swimming

The University of Alaska Fairbanks women's swim team ended their season with a victory over Colorado Mesa on Friday, Jan. 27. The team won eight out of the nine separate events and one relay throughout the evening, bringing them to an ending score of 126 - 79. The team took the top two places in six different events.

Some of these wins included the top three winning places in the 50 meter freestyle. Some of the night's winning swimmers included Ashley Crowe, a UAF sophomore from Billings, Mont., who swam the 1,000 meter freestyle in 10 minutes and 41.54 seconds, and Margot Adams, a UAF freshman from Anchorage, who swam the 50 free style in 25.25 and the 100 fly in 56.70, setting a new pool record by almost 5.5 seconds.

This victory was one of the swim team's final two regular-season meets before the conference and national meets that they will participate in later this spring. The other competition, Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Patty Center Pool, also wrapped up with a victory

against the Mesa State University Mavericks of 144 - 60.

The Alaska Nanooks set multiple pool records, including the 200 meter medley relay, which was won with a time of 1 minute and 50.1 seconds. This particular 200 medley relay team is ranked sixth in the nation, according to Coach Scott Lemley. Along with their relay victories, the Alaska Nanooks also held multiple individual victories

Men's Hockey

The Alaska Nanook Men's Hockey team participated in the CCHA home series, playing two games against the fourth-ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish. The Alaska Nanooks took home a victory Friday night, Jan. 27, with a score of 6-3.

The scoring started late in the first period but continued with fast back-and-forth

scoring between the two teams through the second period. Defensemen Aaron Gens and Michael Quinn provided multiple assists throughout the night.



The Nanooks were 2-for-4 on the power play and 3-for-4 on the penalty kill. Senior goalie Scott Greenham ended the game 26 saves.

The second game of the weekend was not as successful, leaving the Nanooks with a 4-2 loss to the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Junior Jarret Granberg and sophomore Cody Kunyk scored the two Nanook goals in the first period. Nanook goalie Scott Greenham made 19 saves.

Women's Basketball

The UAF Women's Basketball team lost to Northwest Nazarene 83-56 on Saturday, Jan 28, during a Great Northwest Athletic Conference game in the UAF Patty Center.

The NNU Crusaders stepped up their play in this game after losing to the UAA Sea Wolves by 40 points earlier in the week.

The Crusaders were leading 14-12 early in the first half before scoring 10 points in a row, double of UAF's score, with 10:54 left. The NNU Crusaders had a solid lead of 41-26 as both teams headed into half time. Less than two minutes into the second half, NNU led 51-28. The Nanook women were unable to recover from this blow for the rest of the game, never being able to reach within 21 points of the Crusaders' score.

UAF freshman Benissa Bulaya, junior Taylor Altenberg, and senior Autumn Greene each tied the place of team high-honors. Bulaya took three rebounds and counted three assists throughout the game. Altenberg scored eight out nine throws from the free throw line.

The Nanooks will play next Thursday, Feb 2, in Billings, Mont. against the Montana State Billings Yellowjackets.



The Sun Star is offering special Valentine's day messages for the Feb. 14 issue.

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Frozen few brave the cold for annual run

Fernanda Chamorro
Sun Star Reporter

Six racers took on the low winter temperatures and icy roads as they ran 6.4 miles on campus, one taking the short cut. The Chilly Buns Midwinter Run is an annual race that began on Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. It has taken place for more than 20 years and the runners understood the reason behind the name. They arrived with their faces covered in frost.

"My toes are a little cold," said 53-year-old Paul Reynolds, who works at the Lola Tilly Commons and decided to take the shorter 2.5-mile campus loop called the Beat Beethoven Course. The temperature dipping to minus 47 caused the host and timekeeper Jane LeBlond, 37, to offer runners a choice between the short or long routes. Five of them took the long way.

Running Club North sponsored the event and was concerned with getting people that were not well-prepared to participate in the dangerously freezing temperatures, according to the club's president, Bob Vitale, 58. Therefore, the race was not

advertised much. It began and ended in the Nenana Parking Lot with the contestants reuniting in the warm hut where LeBlond offered refreshments and treat bags.

No one received prizes; the race was just for fun. "It's a good excuse to go on a run when it's this cold," said first-place winner Dirk Nickisch, 43.

"You gotta take every opportunity you can to get motivated to go out," he said.

It was Nickisch's first time participating in this race. He enjoyed the run and mentioned that "it's actually a pretty nice day once you get out of the ice fog."

Jane Lanford, 56, and the only woman participating in the run, said that what pushed them through the cold was knowing that it would be warmer uphill. As the runners came down Yankovich Road, the sun came out and provided a sense of warmth with an inversion of about 10 degrees.

"This was an all-time low, so conditions considered, there are more [runners] than I anticipated," LeBlond said. For four years, she has helped organize and time the race by running it herself. However, she thought that it was so cold this time that she decided

not to run and instead followed the participants in a car to make sure everybody arrived safely.

Runners knew that they had to come prepared for the cold, icy and foggy conditions. They wore face masks, many "breathable" layers that would allow their sweat to evaporate, thumbtacks on their shoe soles, and Vaseline around their eyes to protect their skin.

With all the protection, the roads were still unsafe. Bruce Sackinger, 41, slipped on the corner of Yankovich and Ballaine but mentioned that Nickisch was considerate and sportsman-like by giving him a hand and running with him.

One thing is for sure: these runners did not let the cold, slippery path slow them down. The runners came in the following order:

Dirk Nickisch- 50:14
Bruce Sackinger- 50:51
Jane Lanford- 57:02
Don Kiely- 58:06
Bob Vitale- 1:00:52

"People should get out even when it's cold," Nickisch said.



Dirk Nickisch, 43, poses for a photo after completing the 10k Chilly Bun Run on Saturday morning, Jan. 28th, 2012. Nickisch finished 1st with a time of 50:14. The official temperature for the race was minus 49 degrees. Michelle Strehl/ Sun Star.



Matthew Balazs, 2010 UAF Graduate.

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UAF student follows soldiers' stories to Afghanistan

JR Ancheta

Special to The Sun Star

I was in Afghanistan for my winter vacation. I experienced a small glimpse of a combat zone when I was embedded with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division of Fort Wainwright, Alaska. With two heavy, green Army duffel bags stuffed with a minimum set of clothing, a sleeping bag, toiletries, two sets of body armor, Kevlar helmets and a bag packed with two camera bodies, an external hard drive and a laptop, I left Fairbanks on the morning of Dec. 13, 2011. All my preparations happened a week before finals.

I was following the story of the brigade's yearlong deployment. The story began in February 2011 when they were training at the National Training Center (NTC) in the Mojave Desert near Fort Irwin, Calif. I was embedded with the brigade with two other University of Alaska Fairbanks journalism students and Cheryl Hatch, a former Snedden Chair of the Department of Journalism. Cheryl and I followed the soldiers after the training until they left for Afghanistan. We were invited by soldiers at various events to visit them "down-range."

I realized the outstanding opportunity for me as an emerging photojournalist and I decided to go. My parents, of course, were concerned for me and for my safety, but they were supportive. The embed put a tremendous strain on my finances and I, too, was concerned about the unknown, but early on I realized the significance of this opportunity.

When I arrived at brigade headquarters in Massum Ghar, the first thing I noticed was the soldiers' faces. I spotted a squad through my long lens and recognized a few soldiers. The strains, stresses and challenges of combat on these particular soldiers are seen by their faces and altered eyes. They appeared aged, older and different. They were the same soldiers I knew, but they had been changed and molded by their experiences in Afghanistan. Looking at the photographs I made at NTC a couple of months before deployment confirmed my impression. Walking behind the footsteps of the soldiers during several patrols and an air assault gave me a glimpse of their lifestyle, the high and low points of being at war.

I was spared from seeing the atrocities of war because we did not receive any contact from enemy forces or get injured outside the wire. It became all too real when

I met Cpl. Joe Mille, 20, and Pfc. Rex Tharp, 20, of the 10th Mountain Division of Fort Drum, N.Y. at the medical facility, Role-3, in Kandhar Airfield.

Mille, of Galloway, N.J. and Tharp of North Manchester, Ind., were injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) while on patrol with their platoon Tuesday, Jan. 10, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Tharp hit the first IED and Mille, his team leader, was running to his aid when Mille hit a second IED. Both soldiers suffered below-the-knee amputations on their right legs.

Mille was from my hometown of Sitka, Alaska, and we went to the same high school when I was a senior and he a freshman. We had one class together.

"JR Ancheta. What the f--- are you doing here in Afghanistan?" Mille said as we recognized each other at the intensive care unit.

I went over and stood next to his bedside, held his hand and we talked.

"This s--- is real." Mille said.

Seeing both soldiers in the situation was very challenging, and I realized one of the best parts of being a journalist: I hear people's stories and I can share them with others.



Staff Sgt. Keith Brown, 31, of Raleigh, Miss. calls wife, Arlyn, and son, Keith Brown II, in Fairbanks, Alaska, at a forward operating base's Morale Welfare and Recreation's mud hut, Dec. 24, 2011, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Brown is part of the 1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team 25th Infantry Regiment based in Fort Wainwright, Alaska.



Soldiers from Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion 5th Infantry Regiment returns to combat outpost Sperwanghar from an eight-hour joint patrol with the Afghan National Army on Jan. 2, 2012, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Processed marijuana and marijuana seeds were found and destroyed during the mission. The American soldiers serve with the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division deployed from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.



Spc. Joe Mille, of Galloway, N.J. (left) was injured in an IED blast while on patrol with Pfc. Rex Tharp, 20, of North Manchester, Ind. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2011 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. Tharp hit the first IED and his team leader, Mille, was running to his aid when he hit a second IED. Both soldiers suffered below the knee amputations on their right legs. JR Ancheta/For the Sun Star

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Weekly Weigh Ins!!

Museum 'Leggy!' exhibit makes creepy crawlers fun

Ian Larsen
Sun Star Reporter

The UAF Museum of the North is kicking off the spring semester with its new exhibit, "Leggy! Live Spiders and Their Relatives."

This exhibit will be available until May 5. Although the rest of the museum is free to students, "Leggy!" is a special feature, with a \$4 price of admission.

This exhibit contains a wide variety of live insects and other arthropods such as earwigs, an assortment of spiders, beetles, scorpions, horseshoe crab, and nearly-extinct cave roaches.

The exhibit also contains a small colony of sterile female ants that recently laid eggs.

"It's a happy surprise," Curator of Insects Derek Sikes said. "The ants have no queen and are known to be sterile, the ants are not designed to lay eggs."

The ants were collected by Sikes, according to the museum's Facebook page, however he was unable to find the queen.

"It's not that surprising because in this order of insects, the Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants), unfertilized eggs always become males and fertilized eggs always become females," the page said.

"I don't know how this happened, but it is exciting, and with special care these eggs may be raised to adult male ants," Sikes said.

"Leggy!" is also a child-friendly exhibit. The exhibit contains informative pictures to teach viewers more about the insects in the gallery and a video about how the insects are caught in Alaska.

Showcasing a variety of exotic insects, the exhibit also has multiple insect costumes available for attendees to experience what it would feel like to be an insect.

A special feature of the exhibit is a

darkened gallery with sounds of nocturnal singing insects, in which visitors can search for exotic arthropods using small flashlights provided by the museum.

"The exhibit was put together to educate and entertain," Sikes said. "We wanted to make the exhibit as appealing as pos-

sible, in order to show visitors a different perspective on these animals that are normally feared, and show visitors that they are harmless and beneficial in nature."



A Simandou Range cave roach spends his morning on the underside of a piece of bark on Jan. 25th, 2012 in the "Leggy!" exhibit at the Museum of the North in Fairbanks, Alaska. This exhibit will run through May 5th, 2012. Michelle Strehl/ Sun Star.



An American horseshoe crab goes for a swim in his tank on Jan. 25th, 2012 in the "Leggy!" exhibit at the Museum of the North in Fairbanks, Alaska. This exhibit runs through May 5, 2012. Michelle Strehl/Sun Star.



A darkling beetle waits near the entrance to his lair in the "Leggy!" Exhibit at the UA Museum of the North on Jan. 25th, 2012. The exhibit will run through May 5, 2012. Michelle Strehl/ Sun Star.

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UAF Dining Services aids local soup kitchen

Ian Larsen
Sun Star Reporter

With the start of the new semester, the food services at UAF began donating leftover food to the Stone Soup Café, a soup kitchen in Fairbanks. The donations are made on a daily basis when there are leftovers available and cooks to prepare them.

The Lola Tilly Commons, Wood Center, Catering Services and other parts of NANA management are participating in the donation program.

The Stone Soup Café is a public-donation-only soup kitchen. Because of this, the cafe is currently only able to serve breakfast, bag lunches and the occasional dinner to those in need.

"If we get more food donations coming in, we can start serving actual lunches and dinner more often," Dan Reeves said. Reeves is the manager of the Stone Soup Café.

"We serve around 200 people a day," Reeves said. "Any food we get is definitely helpful. I know UAF can't donate food every single day, but hopefully with their attempt to donate on a daily basis we'll start seeing more in the near future."

"Donations were occurring intermittently around the end of last semester," UAF Catering Services Manager Mary Mitchell said. "Now we are beginning to donate food on a daily basis, when extra food is available. Any extra prepared food for catering jobs is donated at the end of the day, carrots, greens, et cetera."

Mitchell had been the Stone Soup Café manager in 2008, and introduced the donation idea after being hired onto the UAF staff in 2011.

"It's definitely a good operation we have going now, we waste a lot less food and help out the community," Mitchell said.

"When ever there is an overabundance of food prepared for a catering event, or at the other dining facilities, we send it over to the soup kitchen," Dining Services Director of Board Operations Lisa Kennedy said. "The other day we donated an extra 50 prepared pork chops to the kitchen."

Although most of the Dining Services board members were keen on the idea of food donations, it took some discussion to make sure everything went according to plan.

"After the recent switch in manage-

ment, there was some concern about food preparation liability, but because of the Good Samaritan Act we are able to donate without fear of being sued," Mitchell said.

According to the Good Samaritan Act of 1990, as long as the food donated meets federal, state and local laws, or the receiving party is informed of bad quality, the donator cannot be held liable for any incident.

With all the UAF food services in agreement with the donation operation, the final

stage of approval was with the cooks.

"The cooks play an instrumental role in donation," Mitchell said. "They are the ones that have to change their protocol, and prepare the extra food at the end of the day, so it is really their call, they are such great sports about the idea it's wonderful."



Early morning on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012, Fairbanks residents pour into the Stone Soup Cafe to enjoy a hot breakfast and cup of coffee to cut the cold. These residents will now enjoy donated food from the UAF Catering Services surplus foods at the end of each day. Erin McGroarty/ Sun Star.


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Arrivederci Italy, merhaba Jordan

Elika Roohi
Sun Star Contributor

For the last five months I've been living and studying in Florence, Italy, which is one of the most popular study-abroad locations for American students. There are more than 40 different exchange programs here, and each fall sees approximately 4,000 new students with nearly double that every spring.

In fact, behind tourism, American college students are the biggest market in Florence.

It makes sense. Florence is an incredibly old city. It started around 80 BC, but the Florence as we think of it (under the control of the Medici Family) has been around since the thirteenth century. Florence promises romance and history and sitting in cafés watching life go by. It's situated on the beautiful fiume di Arno (Arno

River). The center of the city, where all of the universities and international student apartments are located, is big enough to boast numerous churches, grocery stores, bars, clubs and restaurants. But it's small enough to walk from one end to the other in less than an hour.

But because Florence's economy is so dependent on tourism and study-abroad students, it doesn't always feel authentic. I hear almost as much English as Italian while walking through the streets in the center of the city.

I'm not going to undermine the value of studying abroad in Florence, or the beauty of Italy and Italian culture. I have learned so much in the past five months. I've been right in the middle of the euro zone crisis and have witnessed the most political change Italy has seen in years up close and personal. I've traveled my way through the surrounding countries picking up a phrase or two in each one. But by no means is living in Florence out of my comfort zone. And for me, that was really the goal of studying abroad: to challenge myself with foreign cultures and language barriers and unfamiliar public transportation systems.

It was during a short trip to Barcelona, Spain, in October that I really began to think about how to break out of the American

student bubble. When I got back to Italy, I started volunteering at a daycare, I signed up for a language exchange and sometimes I walked 45 minutes to get my groceries just to avoid the center of Florence. I also began corresponding with the UAF Office of International Programs and the International Studies Abroad program. When the opportunity to spend spring semester in Amman, Jordan came up, I decided to take it.

It took me a few months to realize that I might be better suited to the bustling metropolis that is Jordan's capital city than life in the heart of the Renaissance. So for students interested in studying abroad, I have this advice: really do your research. Talk to students who have studied at the university you're interested in. Find out about their experiences. Email the people in charge of your exchange program with a list of questions and utilize UAF's Office of International Programs.

This is the last column you'll read from me in Florence. I start school in Amman in mid-February, where I'll be taking Arabic, some Middle Eastern studies, writing classes and eating lots of shawarma. So *arrivederci*, Italy and *merhaba*, Jordan!



The "Ponte Vecchio" (or "Old Bridge"), which is the oldest bridge in Florence over the Arno River. Photo by Elika Roohi



A view of the Southern side of Florence from the top of the Duomo, one of the largest churches in the world. From this vantage you can see Piazzale Michaelangelo and the tower from Palazzo Vecchio in Piazza Signoria are visible. Photo by Elika Roohi

Two tailored performances and two audiences for DJ Alex the Lion

Annie Bartholomew
Sun Star Reporter

This weekend marked the second annual Wood Center Black Light Dance, hosted as a collaboration between Student Activities Office and UAF's Concert Board. The two night electronic concert series took place in two separate venues: the Friday night eighteen-and-over dance in the Wood Center Ballroom and the twenty-one-and-over DJ feature at the Wood Center Pub.

The weekend of dancing showcased the musical talent of Anchorage-based DJ Alex the Lion. Concert Board members discovered Alex the Lion at the Anchorage venue Taproot where he shared the stage with KSUA General Manager and Concert Board member Ephy Wheeler.

"When Concert Board started talking about DJs and electronic sets to put together for January he automatically popped into my head," Wheeler recalled.

On first glance, Alex the Lion looked like he would belong in the alternative folk rock band, Fleet Foxes: tight flannel, trim beard, except for the giant DJ equipment and vinyl at his fingertips.

UAF's under-21 population dressed for the performance. Students' outfits ranged from formal to freaky, with some attire right out of Lower 48 electronic music festivals like Burning Man and the Electric Daisy Carnival. Students wearing tutus, florescent tank tops and day-glow hair extensions ex-

perienced exciting effects under the black lights.

"He throws in a lot of good stuff you don't usually hear at the dances," mining engineering undergraduate Alex Bertram said about the soundtrack of Friday's Black Light Dance. "Usually it's all pop and hip Hop."

Though Friday night's ballroom performance seemed dynamic and diverse, Alex the Lion took many requests and answered to an audience much younger than his usual Taproot crowd, he said.

On Saturday night's Pub performance Alex predicted, "Tonight is going to be a lot different as far as style ranges go. It's going to be more of an indie thing." Parliament Funkadelic, Talking Heads and the Dead Weather, were just a few artists' names from the genre-bending work that Alex the Lion offered Saturday. The crowd was ecstatic and quick to adjust to any beat from their fearless disk jockey.

"I'm glad Concert Board and Student Activities are working with such talented artists," said Rosemary Paz, Concert Board member after stepping off the dance floor. "I've been wanting a DJ like Alex to come to Fairbanks. His style is definitely different from a lot of the DJs that have come through here."



(L-R) Janae Anderson, a biochemistry major; Anothony Vealy, a general studies student; and Jerrico Turner, a guest, hang out during the Jan. 27, 2012 dance in the Wood Center Ballroom. Kayla Hajdukovich/Sun Star

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Elise Sutter, a student from Switzerland, enjoys her first dance in Alaska on Jan. 27, 2012. Kayla Hajdukovich/Sun Star

Slam poets hit on hard topics

Fernanda Chamorro
Sun Star Reporter

Students projected their feelings of anger, satisfaction and rejection in a poetry slam at the Wood Center Multi-Level Lounge on Thursday, Jan. 26. Although I arrived as a spectator, the organizers quickly recruited me as a judge.

Participants let go of all fear as they stood in front of peers and expressed their sentiments towards strong topics, such as death, sex and addiction.

"Poetry is meant to be said, it's meant to be heard. So, I felt like I had something to say and I wanted to say it," said 24-year-old photojournalism student Robin Wood, who won first place.

At first there was a small crowd, and not enough people were willing to become judges. So when host Raif Johnson-Kennedy, 29, looked at me and asked me if I wanted to judge, I accepted the offer.

Having to decide a score was difficult because the students' poems were so enjoyable and the competition so fierce. The Student Activities Office put on the event, which began at 7:30 p.m. with five new,

nervous participants and an audience not easily offended.

Each poet had a personal style and showed a different approach to presenting. Students were free to choose their method of performing. One used a trash can to prop up her computer, others read off of printed papers and some recited them from memory. One psychology student, 18-year-old freshman Heather Bieber, who came in fourth place, used her presentation to promote her new club, Supernatural 101.

There were three rounds with each participant reciting one poem per round. The three judges had to write a score between 1 and 10 on a board and hold it up for the host to read aloud. A scorekeeper kept track of the scores and tabulated them at the end. Johnson-Kennedy was comical and entertained the audience in between poets by reading his own poems. A couple of people mentioned to him that he should compete sometime.

"I really liked being able to sit and listen to everybody's original poems," said freshman Rachael Satterwhite, 18, who had two friends perform. "And it's really kinda inspired me to just want to go home and

write a couple [of poems] and come back and do it next time they have it."

It is important for people to come out and release their thoughts before they change and manifest into different things, Johnson-Kennedy said. Everyone goes through hard times and there is a lot that we feel uncomfortable with discussing or cannot discuss with family, but this is a way to let go.

"It's more of a performance as well," he said. "There's a difference between a poem that's written for the page and a poem that's meant to be performed, so as people keep doing it, they're gonna get better at kinda performing it ... and get [your] message across a lot better by doing that."

The prizes were Slam Poet "Mighty" Mike McGee's booklets, which he sold at his show on Oct. 11, 2011 and contained some of his poems.

"I liked Raif doing the hosting, he's re-

ally funny," 30-year-old Brandon Reid said. "It was a pretty good idea to open the floor up for people... to see all those people that aren't afraid to share what they're thinking or writing."

SAO will organize poetry slams the last Thursday of every month, help hang up the fliers and set up for the crowd. The next one will take place on Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and participants must come prepared with three poems.

"It is nerve-wrecking," said 20-year-old Grace Bieber, a sophomore who participated for the first time but did not place. "But I feel like once I read the poems and I actually release them, I feel a lot better."



UAF psychology freshman and fourth place winner Heather Bieber, 18, recites her first poem of the Poetry Slam night held on Jan. 26, 2012. Fernanda Chamorro/Sun Star

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The little things that matter

Senator Jonathan Schurz
Guest Opinion

A judge once said that "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. And when it dies there, (In their hearts) no constitution, law, or court can save it. " Today's common wisdom is that the little things that we do don't matter. I often hear "I don't want to get involved with this because it won't make a difference; They are going to do what they want to do anyway." Another common thing that people say is "What difference does it make whether I vote or not? Both candidates are corrupt politicians!" The truth is that even our smallest efforts can help bring about larger change. Yet, vast change doesn't just spontaneously happen. Instead, it is often the result of smaller steps, a goal slowly along until it reaches a milestone, or turning point.

While it is true that in many places a few seemingly hold power over an organization, movement, business or social group; the leadership in all of these is not necessarily static. There is always a mechanism to bring about change, new life, and new blood to that entity or organization. In all of these, small groups at the grass level have new or better ideas. For the groups that can persevere, as they gain strength and numbers, they invariably prevail, and bring great change to the entity. History is rife with examples of these small groups of Can-do people that have brought about big changes.

One easy way that we can bring change is by voting. It is surprising how many people say their vote doesn't mean anything. It's common knowledge that over half the voting population in the United States does not vote. This means that our elections are often decided by 24-25% of the public. Surprised? Don't be. Not only does this happen in the United States, but in Europe, and throughout the rest of the world. People the whole world over are convinced

that their votes are worthless, and so they don't bother voting. One can only imagine how different history would have been if more people voted. And one must imagine: If people neglect to vote on our highest and most important elections, how much more so for the ones of lesser import?

Another way that we can help bring change is by talking and venting. Many of us have ideas and feelings, but because they have gone unexpressed, they are only have a hodgepodge of unrelated thoughts and ideals. When we speak of them, we find that they can be of a somewhat contradictory manner, rather than being clear, in agreement, and able to go someplace. By sitting down with a group of friends and acquaintances, talking and venting reveals on a magnitude the indecision and clash of our ideas and ideals. This is why individually talking out our thoughts and expressing our passions and what really burns us up is so vital to any process of meaningful change. It is sort of like an iron bar where the molecular poles of iron are pointing in all directions so that the potential power of this iron bar is all cancelled out. However, even the smallest alignment of these contradictory poles of opinion within that bar occur — a new latent power starts becoming evident — a magnetism that can effect something or someone both internally and externally.

Thomas Paine once said that "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it." We need to remember that freedom isn't automatic. It takes effort to maintain. Although your efforts may seem weak or even worthless, the truth is that your smallest efforts do make a difference. Our individual votes do add up, and when we talk with others about our ideas, they begin to line up internally, and exude strength. Remember: It's the little things that count!



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Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words in length. Please include the author's full name and contact information (phone number, e-mail or address). E-mail your letters (preferred) to editor@uafsunstar.com, fax them to 474-5508, or mail them to PO Box 756640, Fairbanks, AK, 99775. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. in order to run in the next issue. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and grammar.

R_x

Say "Ah"
Donna Patrick, ANP



Frost bite

Q: How do I know if I frostbit my toes?

A: If you have been out in the cold this winter without adequate protection you may have become susceptible to frostbite. Initially the symptoms feel like "pins and needles". This is followed by numbness. Frostbitten skin is hard, pale, and cold and has no feeling. As the skin begins to thaw it usually becomes extremely painful with a sensation of burning and tingling. It may also turn red and swollen. If the injury has affected the skin only, there are usually no adverse reactions. If structures beneath the epidermis are affected the damage may be permanent resulting in possible amputation. This is evidenced by blisters and blackened, dead skin (gangrene)

Q: I am from Florida and have never been in a cold climate. How do I prevent frostbite?

A: Wear warm enough clothing in cold temps especially on exposed areas such as hands, ears and nose. Wear mittens instead of gloves, layer clothing, wear two pairs of socks and boots (not too tight) which have a wool felt liner inside. A hat which covers your ears and a neck warmer which can be pulled over your nose is also necessary during these extreme cold temperatures.

Other conditions which contribute to frostbite include wind, wetness and poor circulation.

Poor circulation can be caused by smoking, restrictive clothing, tight boots, alcohol use, fatigue and diseases such as diabetes.

Q: What do you do for frostbite?

A: Treatment initially entails rewarming the affected area. The skin should be soaked in warm, (not hot) 104 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit, water. If warm water is unavailable you can apply warm clothing to the affected areas for 20 to 30 minutes. Severe burning pain, swelling, and color changes may occur during the rewarming phase. Continue rewarming until the skin becomes soft and feeling returns. Apply dry sterile dressings to the frostbitten area. Place sterile gauze in between toes to help keep them separated.

Do Not:

- Thaw out a frostbitten area if it cannot be kept thawed.
- Use direct heat such as campfire, radiator, heating pad or hair dryer
- Rub or massage the area
- Break blisters of affected skin
- Smoke or drink alcoholic beverages during recovery as these interfere with blood circulation to the region.

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DON'T MAKE ME STOP THE CAR.

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WHY ARE YOU SAYING ALL THIS?

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xkcd

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SIIIIIGH

-GIRL LOOK AT THAT BODY.

WE SHOULD THANK LMAO FOR GIVING US SUCH A GREAT WAY TO RESPOND TO EXASPERATED SIGHS.

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by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)

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